# FLORA'S FAIRY FORGET ME NOT

by Laura Rountree Smith

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LOLLIPOP LADIES
I CENT EACH
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# FLORA'S FAIRY FORGET ME NOT

By

Laura Rountree Smith

THE TRADE MARK

for the
HAPPY CHILD

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# CHAPTER 1

## THE LOLLIPOP LADIES

Says Little Fairy Forget-Me-Not,
"I hope you like to read."
Flora and Fred in Fairyland
Answer, "Yes, indeed."

One day the Calico Girl came running in to see Flora and Fred, singing,

"The Lollipop Ladies are very fine;
The Lollipop Ladies stand in line."

Flora and Fred said almost in one breath, "Who are the Lollipop Ladies? What are the Lollipop Ladies? How can we see the Lollipop Ladies?"

The Calico Girl stood first on one foot and then on the other and said,

"Come on, come on, let's hippity-hop,
Off and away to the Old Toy Shop."

Fred had on his little, blue cap, but Flora did not stop for hat or sunbonnet. She only picked up the neighbor's little boy who always asked questions and was nick-named Willie Why.

The Calico Girl said,

"We will run and never stop,
'Till we come to the little Toy Shop."

The Calico Girl had such a queer name because morning, noon, and night, she wore calico and always longed for a better dress. She said to the other children,

"My hair is bobbed and beginning to curl,
I'm a very happy Calico Girl."

On the children ran until they came to the Toy Shop.

The Lollipop Ladies stood in line;
The children cried, "Hurrah! they are fine;
They are dressed in rainbow colors, too,
Violet, green and red and blue."

Willie Why said, "Why are the Lollipops dressed up like ladies? Why are they standing in line? Why don't we buy some Lollipop Ladies?"

He always asked "Why," morning, noon and night.

Fred said,

"Every Lollipop Lady is surely a peach,
But look at the sign—'One cent each.' "

Now Flora felt in her apron pocket, and Fred felt in his trouser pocket, and the Calico Girl rattled her empty purse in her pocket and Willie Why said, "Why doesn't some one give us a cent?"

Brother Barker, who had followed them, said, "Bow-wow-wow."

The children counted the Lollipop Ladies. There were seven of them in line. It was a wonderful window.

The wobbly, wooden camel stared proudly at them and said,

"Why you've no money nobody knows;
You spent it yesterday, I suppose."

The Mechanical Duck stretched his head clear out of sight but quacked,

"I hope some day you will come back
To the old Toy Shop, quack! quack!
quack!"

The Foot-ball in the window said,

"Save up a penny and save a dime;
Money will help you have a good time."

The Doll's furniture whispered something and

The Lollipop Ladies in dresses so fine
Began to dance up and down in line.

The children said, "There are seven Lollipop Ladies and we will name them for days of the week—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday."

"We hope they'll not be sold today,
Or any of them be given away."

The Calico Girl said,

"I must take my apples home by and by,
For mother is going to make a pie."

Just then the Every-Day-Toy-Man came to the door smiling and said,

"Are the Lollipop Ladies out of your
reach?
They are truly a bargain at one cent
each."

The children ran home, saying over and over,

"Oh for a penny, oh for a penny,
Children never have very many;
A penny to keep and a penny to spend,
A penny to save and a penny to lend."

When the Calico Girl got home, Mother said,

"I'm waiting for you, my oven is hot.
Did you meet Fairy Forget-Me-Not?"

The Calico Girl peeled the apples for Mother's pie and all the time she seemed to see

Gay Lollipop Ladies, as you suppose,
In dainty tissue paper clothes.

Fred went home and Mother said,

"You were going to mow the lawn, my dear;
Fairy Forget-Me-Not called here."

Mother said to Flora,

"You were going to dust my room today
But Fairy Forget-Me-Not went away."

Willie Why's Mother said,

"You forget to tell me 'good-bye,'
How will you remember, Willie Why?
What a tiny memory you've got;
I'll call the Fairy Forget-Me-Not."

One and all of the children cried, "Who is Fairy Forget-Me-Not?"

Some Mothers said, "She is a Fairy small,"
Some Mothers answered not at all.

The children tried to remember what their mothers said, and when work was over,

Away they all went, hippity hop,
Away, away to the Old Toy Shop.

Next day the Lollipop Lady they had named "Monday" was gone. In a few days the "Tuesday" doll was gone and then "Wednesday."

Only four Lollipops hung in line,
Four Lollipops under the one cent sign.

Willie Why said, "Why do children all buy Lollipops and why don't we buy any?"

The Calico Girl sighed and said,

"We are sorry we can't buy any;
Between us all we haven't a penny."

Now Fairy Forget-Me-Not looks after good children who try to help their moth-

ers, and she said to an old lady who wanted children to mail her letters,

"For little things you ask, like these,
Don't forget the pennies, please."

The Old Lady said, "Dear me, of course I will pay the children for doing my errands."

An old gentleman wanted his paper brought from the news stand every day and Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered in his ear,

"They never would think to ask for any,
But Fred and Flora deserve a penny."

By and by the children were really earning pennies. It felt fine to have them jingle in their pockets and all the week they longed for Saturday to come, and they talked about Lollipop Ladies. They said,

"The Lollipop Ladies are a treat
They all are pretty and good to eat;
They hang up high, out of reach,
Lollipop Ladies at one cent each."

When Saturday came, the children ran to the old Toy Shop with Brother Barker at their heels.

They cried, "Now we have our pennies and, oh dear! oh dear! the Lollipop Ladies all are gone."

The Every-Day-Toy-Man said, "We'll have in more Lollipops Monday or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, or Saturday, or Sunday.

The children stood and stared in the Toy Shop window.

Now, wasn't it queer, on the following Monday the Calico Girl, and Willie Why, and Fred and Flora said at exactly the

same hour they did not want to go to school? And wasn't it queer they all had mumps on the following Monday and dreamed about

Seven Lollipop Ladies, fresh and fine,
Dancing upon a wire line.

Now Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered to the Mothers of these good children and when Saturday came delightful things began to happen. The Calico Girl and Willie Why, who did not feel ill at all, ran in to see Flora and Fred, who were still in bed, and cried, "We have a surprise."

Each of the children had a box, and as they opened their boxes out came four Lollipops, and four sheets of tissue paper, and four pairs of scissors, and soon they went snip-snap at the paper and soon they made

Lollipop Ladies in a row,
And hung them up to all bow low;

And made them fat, and funny, and fair,
They made them big, round eyes to stare.

They had so much fun they forgot to ask where the boxes came from, but Fairy Forget-Me-Not knew something about it.

That evening the Every-Day-Toy-Man came "rap-a-tap" at the door.

He saw the Lollipop Ladies four and twenty,
For the children decided to make plenty.

Mother had been to the store and ordered more when she saw how the children enjoyed the fun.

The Every-Day-Toy-Man said,

"I'll pay for every one you dress;
You will be wealthy then, I guess."

The children cried, "Hurrah for the Every-Day-Toy-Man! Hurrah for the pennies! Hurrah for the Lollipop Ladies! Hurrah for the mumps and staying in doors! Hurrah! Hurrah! We never had such fun before."

They began to make Lollipop girls and boys and dressed them in all colors, and they dreamed of all the pennies they could earn.

Fairy Forget-Me-Not said,

"In the hospital across the way,
Longer in bed the children stay;
Some Lŏllipops you might give away
To the sick children across the way."

The Calico Girl said, "I will give away some Lollipops," and for once Willie Why nodded his head and

He didn't ask why, and didn't cry;
He didn't look sad and didn't sigh.

Flora and Fred cried, "Hurrah! Hurrah!"

"We will make Lollipop Ladies to give away,
And by and by make some for pay;
Oh, we have had such a happy day,
Every-Day-Toy-Man, what do you say?"

The Every-Day-Toy-Man smiled a grown-up smile, and said,

"Please lend me seven to put on my line,
I'll take orders for they look just fine;
And many a boy and girl will stop
And come in and order a Lollipop."

The children cried,

"Hurrah, hurrah, your idea is fine;
Hang the Lollipop Ladies under your sign."

The Every-Day-Toy-Man went away with seven Lollipop Ladies in his pocket.

The Lollipop Ladies singing on the line in the Every-Day-Toy-Shop sang a song which you and I could hear if we happened to be passing by,

"Lollipop Ladies sing and say,
'Try to make some one happy today;
We are very small, but we can teach,
We bring happiness at one cent each.'"

They sang then, to the tune of "Lightly Row,"

"To and fro, to and fro,
Little Ladies on the line
Dance away, dance away,
Underneath the sign.

Lollipops are quite a treat,
Boys and girls we love to meet,
Very sweet, good to eat,
Lollipops are fine."

The children made so many Lollipop Ladies, and for all I know they are making them yet.

And now they laugh with merriment,
Saying once on a time we wanted a cent."

# Chapter Two

# ON THE FRUIT FARM

## CHAPTER 2

## ON THE FRUIT FARM

Says Little Fairy Forget-Me-Not,
"To do your tasks you'd better."
Says little Fairy Forget-Me-Not,
"Today you'll get a letter."

Flora and Fred woke early one fall day and Flora said, "I wonder when we will hear of Fairy Forget-Me-Not again."

Fred said, "I see something floating down outside our window." The children dressed in a hurry and ran out-doors. They picked up a little round red piece of card-board, shaped like an apple. It was cut double and inside was written,

"Grandma and Grandpa long to see
Children for pleasant company;
To the farm then off and away
And have a pleasant holiday."

Flora said, "I wonder if Fairy Forget-Me-Not wrote this letter. She is always remembering some one."

Fred said, "Fairy Forget-Me-Not is always thinking about someone. Perhaps we had better write Grandma and Grandpa a letter."

At breakfast time that morning, the postman came and the children came dancing in, calling,

"A letter, a letter for Flora and Fred;
We thought we'd write a letter instead."

The letter was from Grandma and she asked the children to come to the Fruit

Farm for a week. She said there was plenty of work to be done and plenty for play. She said,

"Some one may fill old Grandpa's pipe,
And apples are ripe, apples are ripe."

"May we go, may we go at once to the Fruit Farm?" asked the children in one breath.

"What suit shall I wear?" asked Fred.

"What dress shall I wear?" asked Flora.

"What shall we take Grandma and Grandpa?" asked the children excitedly.

Mother said, "You may pack the trusty, old travelling bag, and I will make a cake for Grandma, and then you may run to the store and buy a bag of peppermint candy for Grandpa."

It was fun to run to the store and buy candy, and it was fun to tell the children they met that they were going to the Fruit Farm on the train that day.

Mother said,

"I will not worry while you're away;
Mind Grandpa and Grandma every day."

Fred sometimes forgot to mind, but Flora said, "We will be good, Mother."

The children took the trusty, old travelling-bag and started away, calling, "Good bye, Good bye."

Mother called after them,

"Oh dear, we've made a sad mistake;
We all forgot dear Grandma's cake."

Back the children bounded and soon packed the cake in a box, which exactly

fitted in the trusty, old travelling-bag. Away they went, waving their little, colored handkerchiefs in the breeze.

Father called,

"Come back a minute, children I pray,
I will send a new pipe to Grandpa Gray."

The children came back and packed the new pipe in the trusty,old travelling-bag.

They said,

"Mother and Father, good-day, good-day,
We're off and away, off and away."

Fred said, with a twinkle in his eyes, "We will not go back this time."

Flora said, "We are well started this time."

Suddenly, without a word of warning, Flora stubbed her toe and down she fell in a mud puddle. Her dress was splashed and her sunbonnet was splashed, and she left Fred sitting down on the trusty old travelling-bag, while she ran back and put on a clean dress and sunbonnet.

Fred said,

"We are well started at any rate;
Hurry, hurry, we're almost late."

Sure enough, the bell was ringing and the conductor was calling, "All aboard! All aboard!"

They ran as fast as their fat, little legs could carry them.

The bell rang, the whistle blew, and they were on their way to Grandpa Gray's Fruit Farm.

Suddenly the cars stopped. The engine had broken down.

The children said,

"This will make a delay. What will Grandma say?
We thought we were really off and away."

They took out their trusty, old travelling-bag and ate their lunch, to make the time seem shorter.

It was late in the day when the engine was repaired and they arrived at the Fruit Farm just in time for supper.

The children ran through the apple orchard. There were apples—apples everywhere! Apples on the trees! Apples on the ground! Apples on the stone wall! Apples everywhere they looked.

They said, "What a good time we will have in the apple orchard tomorrow."

Grandma Gray cut her new cake for supper and said, "How glad I am to have two willing helpers. We will pick apples all day tomorrow."

They did not pick apples next day for it rained and rained.

Grandpa Gray sat in the corner and smoked his new pipe and Grandma Gray taught the children a new kind of play. She said,

"You can have fun, you understand,
If you only spread out your wee, white hand."

She had each child spread out his hand and draw around the thumb and fingers. She said, "You can write a lesson on the thumb."

The children were pleased to do this and wrote on the thumb,

"The first lesson of Grandma Gray
Is, learn to obey, learn to obey."

She showed them how to write the next verse on the first finger of the hand they had drawn. They wrote,

"Be cheerful in work and cheerful in play,"
So says dear old Grandmother Gray."

On the middle finger they wrote,

"Be not afraid of things you see;
Have courage, be brave, as brave as can be."

On the ring finger they wrote,

"Say every morning, noon and night,
I have faith; things will come right."

On the little finger they wrote,

"Learn this lesson every hour,
To be friendly is in your power."

The children said, "What fine lessons! What wonderful lessons! We will play the fingers say the verses over and over."

Flora and Fred were glad when the time came to gather apples. They gathered baskets and baskets full, and helped pack boxes and barrels.

Grandma said to Flora and Fred, "You may pick all over the orchard,

"But remember one thing, please,
When alone, don't climb the trees."

The children had a merry time. Fred went all alone down to the south end of the pasture. How inviting the trees looked. How big the apples looked way up on the branches. It would do no harm, he

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was sure, to climb up on the wall and reach a few very big apples from the tree. He scrambled up on the wall and filled his cap with rosy, red apples. Then some of the apples were just out of reach. He liked to climb trees so well! Thinking Grandma would not care, he climbed up, up, up, and all went well until he started down; then suddenly, without a word of warning, he caught and hung head downward.

"Help! Help!" called Fred.

"Help! Help!" replied echo.

"I should have minded Grandma," said Fred.

"Minded Grandma," replied echo.

Fred cried, "I want a lift. I want help, help, help."

Fairy Forget-Me-Not at this very moment whispered to Flora in the north end of the pasture,

"'Keep together,' Mother said;
Better go and look for Fred."

Flora ran through the orchard and heard Fred crying "Help! Help!" and answered, "I am coming, Fred. I am coming." She scrambled up on the stone wall but could not reach the branch where Fred hung, for a few more dreadful moments he had to hang there, until Grandpa came and took him down in his strong arms.

"I am as thankful as I can be
You rescued he from the apple tree."

Grandpa did not like to scold, so he said,

"Everything will have a turn,
Live and learn, live and learn."

Grandpa took Fred on one knee and Flora on the other, when they got home, and began to smoke. He said, "I will tell you some very old stories about apples and you can call them Pipe Dreams, if you want to."

"In the Norse Land the Gods eat apples to keep young. You have read, of course, too, in Fairy Tales, about the Golden Bird who looks for the golden apples.

"The Germans tell of a girl who befriended the little dwarfs and they gave her an apron full of apples. When she reached home the apples turned to gold.

"In merry, old England they still dance around an apple tree instead of a May Pole.

"I could tell you so many stories about apples, we would never have time to go

to bed. Do you remember how Atlanta lost her race by stooping to pick up a tempting apple?"

Just then Grandma brought in a dish of apples and said,

"Pare them carefully and see
Who your next sweetheart will be."

Flora and Fred laughed and pared their apples carefully until the long peeling curled round and round. They threw the peeling over their left shoulders and laughed and laughed, for each one of the peeling spelled the letter "F." They said, "We are each other's sweethearts and always hope to be."

The children went to bed and when they turned on the light, "Oh my, Oh my!"

There on the bureau stood an apple-shaped candy box and under it was a card,

"Thank you for picking apples red,
From Grandma and Grandpa to Flora
and Fred."

The children ran back downstairs and kissed Grandma and Grandpa on both cheeks and all night long they dreamed they were picking apples in a Fairy Orchard.

# Chapter Three

# DONALD DUNCE

## CHAPTER 3

## DONALD DUNCE

Oh Donald Dunce, you'd better try,
You cannot learn while you sit and sigh;
You'll be a big boy by and by,
Oh Donald Dunce, you'd better try.

One day Flora and Fred woke up happy. They were happy while they dressed, and happy while they ate breakfast, and happy while they ran along to school. Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered in their ears,

"I'll teach you lessons, if you don't mind;
Never forget that you can be kind."

Flora and Fred laughed and said, "Do you mean we must be kind to little But-

ton-Off, and Sulky Sue, and Tardy Tim, and to Donald Dunce?"

At the word "Dunce" Flora and Fred stood still and looked at each other and said, "Wouldn't it be awful to be a Dunce? Wouldn't it be awful not to know your times table, and spelling and not to be able to read good story books?"

Willie Why came by and said, "Why are you standing still? Why don't you go on to school? Why didn't you stay on the farm? Why don't you give me an apple?"

The Calico Girl came along swinging her calico sunbonnet and they all talked about the Dunce.

He wouldn't learn, or he couldn't learn,
He never knew when came his turn
He scowled at work and scowled at play,
He sometimes even ran away.

He did not care a bit, he said,
And wore a Dunce cap on his head.

'Tis better far to laugh than cry,
The Dunce can learn, if he will try.

"Think of his poor, dirty clothes," said Fred. "If I wore torn stockings, I would be thinking about them instead of my lessons, I am sure."

"I wonder if he had a good breakfast, and has a good lunch in his lunch pail," said Flora.

"Why do you bother about the Dunce?" asked Willie Why. "Perhaps he will be a good boy today."

The Calico Girl said,

"Perhaps the Dunce would try to mind,
If we helped him learn; let's all be kind."

"I hated my first day in school," said Flora, "and I always had Fred near."

"Perhaps the Dunce feels strange in this school, too," said the Calico Girl.

They met little Button-Off, and Sulky Sue, and little Bennie Behind-Hand was running breathlessly along.

Willie Why said, "Why are you always in such a hurry? Why are you late?"

The children were full of play in that school.

When Fred stood up to read and held his First Reader proudly in his hand, Willie Why drew a picture on his slate and turned it round so Donald Dunce could see it. Of course the Dunce laughed and had to go and sit on the step with the Dunce cap on. He didn't care whether school kept or not. He threw his Reader

and Arithmetic on the floor and set his slate down beside him. He felt so cross he just added numbers any way he pleased.

He did not take the slightest interest in the Reading Lesson, and did not care a bit when the children found out in the Five Times Table that their answers ended in 0 or 5.

They learned this little verse,

"5 x 1 are 5, 5 x 2 are 10,
5 x 3 are 15, Say them all again.

5 x 4 are 20, 5 x 5 are 25,
5 x 6 are 30, It's good to be alive.

5 x 7 are 35, 5 x 8 are 40,
5 x 9 are 45, We must not be naughty.

5 x 10 are 50, 5 x 11 are 55,
5 x 12 are 60, To be correct we strive."

The children learned their Five Times Table backward and forward, and learned to multiply big numbers by five.

Very still sat Donald Dunce,
He didn't even look up once;
He held his head between his hands,
He said "I cannot understand."

The teacher tried helping and by and by let him alone. Then, when recess came, Flora and Fred asked the teacher something and she agreed.

Flora and Fred went up to the Dunce and said,

"Take off your cap, please, Donald Dunce,
The teacher says you're excused this once."

The Dunce was so surprised he did not know what to say and went out on the playground with Flora and Fred. When

recess was over he came in rosy and smiling and Fred sat beside him and helped him with his Five Times Table.

Flora and Fred, and the Calico Girl, and Sulky-Sue, and Bennie Behind-Hand helped him all day. Willie Why asked, "Why doesn't someone help me?"

When the Dunce wanted to whisper or shuffle his feet, Flora made him write a copy neatly ten times. The copy was "I will be good." The Dunce showed a row of white teeth and smiled as he wrote his copy.

When noon came Flora and Fred said to each other,

"We are up-to-date children, if you please,
We know useful things like these;
As children 'tis easier to be good
If we have the proper food."

They asked Donald Dunce to eat lunch with them and he did not even have a dinner pail. He only had a sandwich wrapped in a piece of brown paper.

Said the children, "We know for once
Why you go by the name of Dunce;
Brown bread and apples and something
good
You should have in your lunch for food."

Donald Dunce laughed and said he never had time to pack a lunch. "What are you so busy about?" asked Flora and Fred.

Donald Dunce laughed and said,

"Ha! ha! ha! since you ask it,
I am making a wonderful basket."

Flora and Fred said, "What kind of a basket is it? Where did you learn how to

DUNCE
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make a basket? What are you making it of?"

Donald Dunce said he was making a reed basket with a wooden bottom. He said he had learned to weave very smoothly and when the basket was finished he would bring it to school.

That night Fred asked Mother if he couldn't give the Dunce a pair of stockings.

Mother thought some time and said, "Perhaps Donald would not like that, but you may invite him to come over and show you how to make a basket, and you can pay him twenty-five cents for the lesson.

Donald Dunce was proud and happy, you may be sure, and when his teacher learned that he knew how to do one thing well, she sent and got the material, and

let Donald go up and down the aisles and help her teach the children how to make baskets of reeds the right size to hold flower-pots.

Donald Dunce began to try to like school. He began to study his reading and arithmetic.

He did not sit in the corner except that once,
Dear little, queer little Donald Dunce.

The teacher said one day, "I have found a new kind of Dunce Caps and they all have letters and words upon them. We all will wear Dunce Caps and play games today, for our lessons were well done."

The children all put on the Dunce Caps and read the acrostics upon them. They read from each others' caps,

Do your duty every day;
Unto all "Good Morning" say;

Never make fun of any one;
Count your blessings up for fun.
Every place, wear a pleasant face.

The children played games and every child could tell some time when he or she had been a Dunce.

Said the Calico Girl, "I remember once
I forgot my rubbers, I was a Dunce."

Said Willie Why, "I remember once
I overslept, I was a Dunce."

Said Bennie Behind-Hand, "More than once
I forgot the time, I was a Dunce."

Flora and Fred said, "We are happy, if **only once**
We, either one, are called a Dunce."

They played a cute game later. They stood in a circle and one child in the centre had a Dunce Cap. They all clapped hands, danced round and sang to the tune of "Lightly Row,"

"Only once, only once,
Will you be the school-room
Dunce;
Only once, only once,
Will you be the Dunce.
Everything will have a turn,
And we have so much to learn;
Only once, only once,
Will you be the Dunce."

A child in the centre asked any child to answer a combination of numbers on his cap, as 2+4 or 2×4 or any simple sum on his cap. If he failed, he became the Dunce. If he answered correctly, the game continued until the child with the Dunce Cap could catch some one to take his place.

The children had a merry time.

They all helped Donald Dunce so much that he began to wear clean clothes, and

he began to eat good food, and he began to learn his lessons, and he was a happy, good, smiling boy.

He was really cross and stupid once,
"But now I like school," says Donald Dunce.

# Chapter Four

# A MODERN RED-RIDING-HOOD

## CHAPTER 4.

## A MODERN RED-RIDING-HOOD

"I'll help, if I am on the spot,"
Says Little Fairy Forget-Me-Not;
"Courage in work, and courage in
play,
'Remember courage,' is what I say."

Once upon a time, when Flora and Fred went to visit Grandma and Grandpa, they said,

"Grandma Gray, Grandma Gray,
We should work as well as play."

Grandma looked at the children over her spectacles and Grandpa smoked his pipe a while in silence. Then he said,

"I'll take Fred in the field with me
And see what a helper he will be."

Grandma said,

"Flora can feed the fowls, you see,
What a willing helper she will be."

Next day Grandma Gray had a surprise for Flora. When Flora was ready to feed the ducks and geese and chickens, Grandma Gray said,

"Flora, dear, you are happy and good;
I will call you my little Red-Riding-Hood."

So saying, Grandma Gray put on Flora a new, little red cape, and she did, indeed, look like a little Red-Riding-Hood.

She said, "Oh Grandma, may I take the food to the ducks and geese and chickens in a basket instead of a pan?"

Grandma Gray said,

"Yes, I hope you'll not meet the wolf;
If it rains, your coat is waterproof."

Flora ran out and fed the ducks and chickens in the barnyard.

Suddenly, without a bit of warning, she felt a tugging at her coat and a cry of "Honk! honk!" Seven hungry geese were pulling her this way and that way.

Flora was so afraid she cried, "Help! Help!"

Now Fred in the field remembered that Mother had said before they left home to look after Flora a little, and just at this very moment Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered to him,

"Flora is such a little tot,
Where is she?" asked Fairy-Forget-Me-Not.

Fred came running just in time to frighten the geese away and he said, as he put his arm around Flora,

"You were frightened, I do not wonder;
What you needed was a gander."

Flora said it was so good to feel Fred's strong arm around her, she would not cry any more and she was glad anyway she had not met the wolf.

At dinner that day Grandpa said,

"Have you had adventures two, or eleven?
Have you met the 'naughty seven?"

"Who are the 'naughty seven?' " asked the children excitedly. Grandpa Gray said,

"I call them Reginald and Silver White,
Gold Bill, Honker in the Night.

I call them White-Wing, and old Webbed Feet;
Sir Trumpeter also we will meet."

Fred laughed and said, "I do believe Grandpa Gray has named every one of his geese."

Flora looked out the window and cried, "Hear that Honk! Honk! Honk!"

Grandpa Gray said, "The wild geese are flying. Spring is coming. Spring is coming!"

They all went out doors and, sure enough, the wild geese were flying overhead in a V-shaped group.

Down, down, they came into the field to feed. They fed beside the farm geese, who did not seem at all surprised.

"Quick, quick," said Grandpa Gray, "get the gun, get the gun."

Grandpa Gray was a good shot, and he shot three wild geese for dinner.

The children had the fun of picking geese for the first time in their lives and Grandma Gray said, "We will roast the geese, and I will save you each a goose feather to use as a pen, and some goose grease to take home and rub on your chest when you have a cold."

Grandpa Gray said, "One of these is a Canadian goose. It is thirty-five inches long and the largest wild goose in this country."

He said, "It is easy to tame a goose."

"A wild goose likes corn and wheat,
And almost any grain will eat."

Grandma said, "That surely is a Canada goose, because it is so large and has such a long neck."

The goose cries "Honk! Honk!" It cannot sing;
It travels north in the early spring.

Fred said, "I once saw a white-cheeked goose called a 'Black Brant.' It is a very black goose but wears a white collar round its neck."

Grandma said, "I think the most beautiful goose we have is the 'White-Fronted Goose.' Its white frill is below its bill. Its feathers have a white edge and are beautifully shaded."

Grandpa said, "I like the 'Snow-Goose' best, pure white all over, except its wing feathers. All geese like water, of course."

The wild geese flew away—away—away.

That night Flora dreamed that Mother-Goose came sailing in her window on

a gander, and took her for a ride on the goose that laid the golden egg.

Flora and Fred loved to visit the farm and when they went home they had seven round packages neatly wrapped, which they carried in a basket.

They called,

"Good-bye, dear Grandma and Grandpa Gray,
Good-bye, we are sorrry to go away."

When they got home they told Father and Mother they had seven goose eggs in their basket.

"How could I make any one give me a bottle of milk?

"Little Boy Blue wore a blue coat and cap and blue shoes. He was so gentle I wished I could jump up into the baby carriage and lie down beside him.

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"By and by Flora and Fred met the Calico Girl and Willie Why who said, 'Come on and look at the animals in the Park. Leave Little Brownie to look after Little Boy Blue.'

"Willie Why said, 'Why does he need any one to look after him?'

"Fred called,

'Come on, come on and have a laugh,
Come on and see the big giraffe.'

"Then the most exciting thing happened.

"A man came and offered to take the children for a ride on a fine, fat pony.

"Flora and Fred and the other children had to ride, of course.

"Here was my chance.

"I jumped up beside Little Boy Blue and hoped he would go right to sleep and let me borrow his milk bottle. I could not sing to save my life but I tried to talk to him.

"I said,

'My coat is soft and fine as silk;
Will you give me a little milk?
In the carriage, side by side,
We will take a little ride;
You are a year old, it is true,
But I am just a baby too;
May I take a little drink?
Little Boy Blue, what do you think?'

"Now I could not understand what Little Boy Blue said any better than he could understand me, so I reached over and took the bottle from him and took one

long drink of nice, warm milk. Then things began to happen.

"The baby carriage began to walk;
The baby carriage began to talk.
It was on a moving side-walk, see;
It was just as funny as could be.

"Away, away, away we went on the moving side-walk; Little Boy Blue and the Baby Carriage and I.

"Then Little Boy Blue began to cry.

"My! How that baby did cry.

"People crowded round us, a very great many,
People offered that baby a penny;
They offered him peanuts and candy sweet,
They gave him a rosy red apple to eat.

It makes me sigh, oh me, oh my,
To think how Little Boy Blue would cry.

They crowded round one and another,
And said, 'The baby wants his mother.'

"I hid the bottle of milk under the little pink and white afghan as well as I could, for I wanted the take another drink if the crowd would only go away.

"Little Boy Blue cried harder and I licked his little hands and tried to make him understand that I was his friend and meant no harm.

"I don't know what in the world would have become of us if Fairy Forget-Me-Not had not seen us and gone on Fairy wings to whisper to Flora and Fred,

"Don't stay more than a minute or two
Away from the baby, Little Boy Blue."

"I was not used to moving side-walks or crowds or a crying baby, so I was happy when I saw Flora and Fred coming

and heard Fred cry, 'Wanted a dog catcher.'

"He took me in his arms and Flora took the baby in her arms and we soon got off the moving side-walk.

"By and by the children put us both back into the carriage and it began to roll itself like a magic baby carriage and sang,

'Roll along to music sweet,
Up the street, up the street;
Give a guess whom we will meet,
Rolling, rolling up the street.'

"Now close your eyes and give forty-nine guesses as to whom we should meet.

"Riding up and riding down,
Whom should we meet but the Circus Clown.

He made the children laugh, of course,
For he rode a wooden Rocking Horse.

"When they grow up," Flora said, "I will name one Reginald and one Snow White."

"Don't forget Gold-Bill and Honker," said Fred, "and White-Wing and old Webbed-Foot and Trumpeter."

Flora said, "I am glad you rescued me from the geese. Really, Fred, I do not know what I would do without you."

The children had great success with their goose eggs. They raised them indoors in an incubator, and by and by seven tame geese followed them all over the yard.

Fred and Flora wrote a letter to Grandma and Granmpa and said, "We hope you

will come to the city to visit us and see in our back yard Reginald and Snow-White, Gold-Bill, Honker, White-Wing, Old Webbed-Foot and Trumpeter, for we have named every one of the geese after yours."

Flora added, "When I go to school all the children call me "Little Red-Riding-Hood."

Fred added, "The boys call me 'Boy-Blue' because I wear a blue suit and cap.

The children waited anxiously for a reply to their letter and were sorry when, by and by, Grandpa wrote that they could not come until next Thanksgiving.

The seven geese grew every day and became such pets that Flora and Fred said,"We cannot bear to think of eating these pets."

Mother said, " You will soon have to clip their wings or they will fly away."

Father said,

"Two dollars a-piece, two dollars a-piece,
Here is some money for nice fat geese."

Father counted out fourteen shining silver dollars.

That was seven dollars a-piece for Flora and Fred.

I wonder if they sold the geese to Father. I forgot to ask them.

# Chapter Five

# LITTLE BROWNIE AND LITTLE BOY BLUE

## CHAPTER 5.

## LITTLE BROWNIE AND LITTLE BOY BLUE

Little Brownie came to live with Flora and Fred long ago when dogs could talk and tell their own story.

He said one day, "I hope you will call me Brownie for I am a cousin of the Fairy by that name. I do wish you would hurry up and learn dog language."

Flora said, "See how the new dog wags his tail. Let us call him 'Wags.' "

Fred said, "Let us call him 'Little Bow-Wow' because he barks so much."

"I did not know how to make the children understand that I wanted to be called Brownie unless I acted like a Little

Brownie, so one night I slept in the coal cellar, and next morning ran across the breakfast table and left the print of my little feet on the table cloth, like my cousin, the Brownie, did years and years ago.

"Just imagine my delight when I heard Flora cry, 'Come, Fred, and see the print of little feet. Our dog, Little Brownie, must have been here.'

"From that day they called me 'Little Brownie.'

"I am not going to tell you how I made friends with Brother Bow-Wow, for I have a much more interesting story to tell.

"My story has to do with a milk bottle and a milk bottle baby called 'Little Boy Blue.'

"One day Flora and Fred went to visit the Calico Girl and she was not at home, but her baby brother, Little Boy Blue, was home and the Calico Girl's mother said, 'I was just hoping some one would come along and take little Boy Blue out for a ride.'

" 'We are very glad to hear what you've said,'
Replied dear little, queer little Flora and Fred.

"They said they would take Little Boy Blue out for a ride and maybe they would meet the Calico Girl.

"Of course I was at their heels.

"The Calico Girl's mother said,

'Be careful of my baby sweet;
Look before you cross the street.'

"She gave the baby a bottle of nice, warm milk and Flora and Fred wheeled Little Boy Blue along to the park.

"My! How I did want that bottle of nice, warm milk! How could I make the children understand that bones and meat and gravy were all very well for a grown-up dog but that I was only a baby myself?

He said, 'The Grand Show will commence
Very soon for only ten cents;
So save your pennies, save a dime,
To the circus come for a good time.'
Oh Circus Clown, in funny gown,
We all are glad you came to town;
We'll follow you everywhere up and down,
Oh very merry Circus Clown!

"We followed that Circus Clown up and down the streets and we were all late

for supper, and the Calico Girl's mother was out at the gate looking for Little Boy Blue.

"We all were excited about the circus, of course, but I was still wondering how I could get that bottle of milk.

"The Calico Girl took Little Boy Blue in her arms and went into the house and Fred and Flora went home singing,

'We've a smile to chase away any frown;
Hurrah! Hurrah! for the Circus Clown.'

"Now, I thought, is my chance.

"I got hold of the baby's bottle and was taking a long drink when Willie Why came by and said, 'Oh, you funny dog. You must not drink out of the baby's bottle.'

"That spoiled my drink, of course.

"That night I decided to write a letter to Flora and Fred. It took me a long time to write the letter, but, by and by, I had it finished.

"I wrote:

'Dear Flora and Fred:—

I am just a big baby dog, that is all, and I do love milk. Twice today I tried to drink from the baby's bottle.

Won't you please give me a saucer of milk every morning?

With love,

Your faithful friend,

Little Brownie.'

"Imagine my surprise and delight next day to find a saucer of milk in the kitch-

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en, and Little Boy Blue came in and clapped his hands and said,

'Little Brownie, you are a baby too,
Says dear little, queer Little Boy Blue.'

"I went up to Little Boy Blue and licked his face and he laughed so I know I will always love him.

"I will try to ride in his carriage again and I hope I can have a taste of his bottle of milk.

"I thought I heard the baby carriage say,

'How do you do? How do you do?
Little Brownie, and Little Boy Blue.' "

# Chapter Six

# THE COMICAL CIRCUS CLOWN

## CHAPTER 6.

## THE COMICAL CIRCUS CLOWN

Flora and Fred woke up one morning and said, "It was jolly fun to follow that Circus Clown. How we wish we could really and truly shake hands with a Circus Clown and get to know him."

Surprising things sometimes happen in Platteville.

At that very minute a merry voice cried out,

"Fred and Flora, please come down
And open the door for the Circus Clown."

The children looked down and saw the same jolly clown they had followed about the streets.

They ran down stairs as fast as their little legs would carry them and begged the clown to come in.

Flora explained that father and mother were away for a few days, but she was excited at the idea of getting breakfast for a clown. She whispered to Fred, "What if he should do some of his tricks at the table? What if he should take something alive out of his napkin?"

While the children were in the kitchen, the clown was up to some tricks, of course.

The children came into the room.

"Oh!" and "Ah!" they cried in one breath.

The clown had put their napkins in their tumblers and they were shaped like rabbits with long ears. As for the clown himself, he was standing on his head.

He remarked,

"To practice tricks is rather wise;
I call this healthy exercise."

That was a meal never to be forgotten.

The comical clown took flowers from his coat sleeve, and kept three balls going in the air at one time. He gave good advice, too, now and then, in little rhymes. He said,

"Never mind just how you feel;
Keep a cheerful face at every meal."

The comical clown passed a plate so it continued to go round and round and sailed away in the air. He said,

"I am in an awful fix,
I can't remember half my tricks."

"Dear me," said Fred, "we will have to buy you a memory."

The comical clown replied, looking quite sad,

"I practice fast, I practice slow,
I have to do my tricks just so;
Into the ring I have to go,
I practice fast, I practice slow.

I like to sing a nonsense song,
With verses ninety-nine, and long;
To the Big Circus I belong,
I like to sing nonsense songs."

By this time the children thought they must really be dreaming, but the Clown continued,

"If you would be a Circus Clown,
Just say your verses up-side-down;
You'll have to wear a striped gown,
If you would be a Circus Clown."

Bennie Behind-Hand and Willie Why peeped in the window, while Johnny-

Jump-Up, and the Calico Girl clapped their hands and begged to come in.

A very surprising thing happened.

The clown said,

"With never a word of good-bye I go
To paint some signs for the show."

He just disappeared and no one could see how, or where, he went.

"Stop him, stop him," cried Flora and Fred in one voice, but the Comical Clown was gone.

For many days the children read the signs of the coming circus—"Biggest Show On Earth"—"Greatest Exhibit of Live Animals"—"Magic Balloon"—"Fortunes Told"—"Only a Dime, Ten Cents."

Every day drew nearer and nearer Circus Day.

"Ho for a dime and ho for a penny,
I'll save some money," said little Bennie.

"To save some money I will try,"
Said dear little, queer little Willie Why.

Johnny-Jump-Up, always in motion,
Said, "I think it a splendid notion."

On to school went Flora and Fred,
And heard not a single word that was said.

Of course Little Bennie Behind-Hand did not save in time for Circus Day, and Willie Why and Johnny-Jump-Up and the neighbor children did not save either.

On Circus Day Flora and Fred woke up early.

Flora said,

"We can't go to the Circus, I'm afraid,
But we can all see the Big Parade."

Fred said,

"Away to the Circus, I'd like to go,
And I wish we had money for the
Grand Show."

At this very minute, suddenly, without any warning whatever, in through the open window floated a red balloon, and in floated a blue balloon. On each balloon was written,

"Inside each balloon is ten cents,
It is time for the big show to com-
mence."

"Oh, Oh, Oh!" cried the children. "We cannot open the beautiful balloons to find the money."

The balloons sailed about the room and said,

"We have seen some things funny;
Children sometimes earn pin money."

"Pin money?" said the children, "what do you mean by pin money?"

At this very minute Mother called,

"I will give a penny for every pin,
Hurry up or the circus will begin."

Mother really wanted all the pins picked up from the work basket she had overturned, and there were exactly twenty pins, so Flora and Fred each had earned a dime and sailed into the tent carrying their balloons proudly with them.

My, what a fine circus it was.

How proudly the horses pranced and the animals did their tricks, and by and

by, the Comical Circus Clown came out and jumped through a hoop and rode on a Rocking Horse.

The most delightful surprise was yet to come.

The Comical Circus Clown suddenly saw a red balloon and a blue balloon; then he saw Flora and Fred and he called the children right into the ring and told of the wonderful breakfast they had together. The people thought it was a joke, but every once in a while he would turn to Flora and say, "Now, wasn't that so?" As Flora was too excited to answer her balloon said,

"If you'd been there, you would know
Every word is exactly so."

Then the Comical Circus Clown would turn to Fred and say, "Now wasn't that so?"

Before Fred could get his breath to reply, his balloon fairly shouted,

"If you had been there some hours ago,
You would know 'twas exactly so."

Now Donald Dunce, and Bennie Behind-Hand, and Willie Why, and Johnny Jump-Up had not earned any dimes or pennies, but at this very minute they were peeping in through a hole in the tent, and Willie Why was lying down with his head inside the tent.

The Comical Circus Clown said,

"Thro' the hoop Fred and Flora may go,
But before the trick please bow low."

Willie Why, who was forever asking questions, said, "Why will you put them through the hoop?" The audience laughed and the Comical Circus Clown came out and let the children come inside the tent.

Donald Dunce wished he had washed his face, and Bennie Behind-Hand wished he had brushed his hair, and Johnny-Jump-Up wished he had on a clean shirt and Willie Why said, "Why don't you go on with your tricks?"

The Comical Circus Clown said,

"Come on, come on into the ring,
Follow the leader, that is the thing;
I count one, two, I count one, two,
Follow me now whatever I do."

The children never had more fun in all their lives. They sang, and danced, and rode the Rocking Horse, and when the act was over they all stood in line and shook hands with the Comical Circus Clown.

Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered to Flora and Fred to thank the clown and they said,

"Good-bye, we are going soon;
Thank you for each gay balloon."

Then, nobody knew how it happened, but the Comical Circus Clown suddenly had

Balloons to give, and Balloons to sell,
How many I could never tell;
Balloons of red, and blue, and white,
Balloons to carry day and night,
And every child in the big tent soon
Went home proudly waving a balloon.
Flora and Fred marched up and down
Singing, "Hurrah for the Comical Clown."

For a long time afterward everything in Platteville dated from the visit of the Comical Circus Clown. Whatever it was they talked about happened before the coming of the Comical Circus Clown, or after the coming of the Comical Circus

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Clown, or about the time the Comical Circus Clown came.

All the little boys tried to stand on their heads, and the little girls sang nonsense songs, and all the children were happy, for

A Circus Clown is a jolly fellow,
Dressed in gown of red and yellow.
He rides around and around the ring,
And makes us laugh at everything.

Fred said, "I wish we had asked the Clown how he happened to drop in to breakfast."

Flora said,

If we asked how he happened along,
He would only answer in nonsense song."

I think Flora was right as could be,
For the Clown never answered the question for me.

# Chapter Seven

# THE SWIMMING POOL

## CHAPTER 7.

## THE SWIMMING POOL

Once upon a time Grandpa Gray wrote a letter to Fred's father and said,

"I want four helpers among the boys;
I will not mind their whistle and noise;
When they come out I will explain;
Please send them by the fastest train."

Fred cried, "May I go? May I go? May I go and tell Donald Dunce, and Johnny-Jump-Up and Willie Why they are invited?"

Father said,

"The journey is just as good as done,
But have a little patience, son."

Father took out an envelope from the letter, and out of the envelope came a crisp one dollar bill.

"For our tickets," cried Fred in great excitement. "It costs twenty-five cents to get to the Ipswich Farm."

Fred ran out to tell the boys the joyful news and Flora sat down in the doleful dumps.

Now Flora did not often get the doleful dumps, but it was hard not to be invited.

Mother said,

"You are disappointed, I'm afraid,
But we can plan some fine charades;
We will dress up just for fun
And give a play when day is done."

"What are charades?" asked Flora, but mother was too busy to tell her at that time.

Back into the house bounded Fred with the other boys at his heels and they had

just time to run for the train, Fred proudly waving the crisp dollar bill as he ran.

My, what a jolly ride they had to the farm on the train.

My, how pleased they were to see Grandpa Gray with his two black horses and hay wagon at the station. He had a small load of hay on the wagon and said,

"Jump on the hay and do not fall;
Jump on the hay, hold on, that's all."

The boys cried,

"Hurrah! Hurrah! We hear what you say,
Hurrah! Hurrah for a ride on the hay."

They said, "Grandpa Gray pretended he was deaf when he didn't want to hear, so he said,

"Can you whistle and sing a song?
Did you bring your fishing poles
along?"

Fred said, "Can we feed the horses for you, Grandpa?"

Grandpa Gray said,

"Can you swim in the pool, I say?
Did you bring bathing suits today?"

Donald Dunce said,

"I can bring in wood and water, too;
What other chores will you have us
do?"

Grandpa Gray said,

"In the merry days of fall,
We may play a game of ball."

Willie Why shouted,

"Why don't you tell us what to do,
Now we have come to visit you?"

Grandpa Gray said,

"I wonder if the wind is right
To fly a very bonnie kite?"

Johnny-Jump-Up could stand it no longer. He got up and shouted in Grandpa Gray's good ear,

"We are willing helpers every one,
We will work 'till set of sun;
What tasks have you ready please?
Grandpa Gray, oh do not tease."

Grandpa Gray said,

"Come on, let's sing a useful song,
For singing helps the work along."

He taught them a song which they sang to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

Verse:

"Right hand here and left hand there,
I'll tell you what we'll do, Sir;
Right foot here and right foot there,
We're learning something new, Sir.

Chorus:

"Clap the hands together so,
Right and left in greeting;
Stamp the right and left foot so,
When a friend we're meeting."

Grandpa Gray said, "Most of my hired help cannot tell their left hand from their right hand, and little things like these come in mighty handy, lads. If you should forget which side your left hand and foot are on, there is a time-piece on your left side that beats.

You have a heart that beats tick, tock,
Very like the Family-Clock."

The boys put their heads down to listen to their beat and said,

"Now you know we understand
How to find our own left hands."

Grandpa Gray said,

"Notice how many birds you see
On the fence-posts and in the tree."

The boys heard Bob-White call and saw the Martin and heard the Song Sparrow and Wild Canary.

Grandpa Gray said, "I wish I could tell you a story of the road; how interesting it would be. Think of the horses and cars that go over the road all the year, and think of the people who go on the road."

"Where are they going, and why are they going?" asked Willie Why.

Donald Dunce began to draw a picture of a long road that wound in and out among the trees, and he drew the hay-wagon with the boys on it and said, "Pictures tell some stories to me as well as words."

When they got to the farm it was supper time, and Grandma Gray had a fine supper ready and they told stories and roasted chestnuts 'till bed time.

The boys went to bed without having learned what they had come to the farm for, but decided whoever woke up first should call the rest.

At exactly four o'clock in the morning, not one minute before and not one minute after, Johnny-Jump-Up woke and called,

"Four o'clock, night is done,
Wake up, wake up every one."

The boys got up and dressed and, sure enough, they were the first ones awake in the house.

Willie Why said,

"Why can't we go to the swimming pool?
Why can't we bathe in the water cool?"

To the surprise of all, the Family-Clock spoke, instead of ticking, and said,

"Ask the wood-box on the floor,
He's answered questions once before."

The boys took the hint and ran out to the wood-shed and, in less time than it takes to tell it, the wood-box was full.

Donald Dunce cried,

"Hurrah, Hurrah! There is no school.
I'm off and away to the swimming pool."

A voice called,

"Who'll fill water-pails in a row?
Who'll get the water I'd like to know?

The boys laughed and brought in water and by that time the hired man was

up and let them help feed and water the cows, and every once in a while a voice, that must have belonged to Fairy Forget-Me-Not, would remind them to do some little task by singing a nonsense rhyme.

She sang now,

"If I had a pair of little legs,
I'd go and gather all the eggs."

To the barn they went and it was fun to find the eggs. They surprised the hen who had stolen her nest, and Fairy Forget-Me-Not called,

"You can help Grandpa, yes, indeed,
If all the barnyard fowls you feed."

So, all day long the boys had a good time and did useful things, and they said,

"By to-morrow we will feel so old,
We'll do some things without being told;

If we forget, please do not scold;
We'll do some things without being told."

In the evening Grandpa Gray said,

"I don't like water, as a rule,
But come on to the Swimming Pool."

The farm dog, Little Brown Brother, was at their heels.

Grandpa Gray said, "Bless your dear little hearts, you all forgot your swimming suits, but there will be no one about, and I will give you some big towels. Here is a white towel, and a white towel with a blue border, and a blue towel with a white border, and be sure to take a rope, so if anything gets wet you can hang it upon a line to dry."

Off went the merry crowd to the swimming-pool.

Johnny-Jump-Up had jumped about so much all day he did not want to go into the water, but he helped hang up a line and hang up the boys' shirts and stockings. Then he and Grandpa Gray sat on a log and watched the boys swim and dive off the rocks and have a glorious time.

Grandpa Gray whispered something to Johnny-Jump-Up and soon he disappeared too, and three little shirts disappeared.

Donald Dunce got out by and by and used his big towel and Fred did the same and suddenly cried, "Boys, our shirts have gone. Little Brown Brother must have taken them."

Willie Why said, "Why aren't they on the line? Why don't you help me out of the water? Why doesn't Johnny-Jump-Up answer?"

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At this critical moment Fairy Forget-Me-Not said,

"Which is right and which is left?
Look back of the clump of trees;
Which is right and which is left?
Johnny-Jump-Up tried to tease."

There, safe and sound, back of the trees were the shirts, and the boys laughed and cried,

"Hurrah! Hurrah, 'twas an April Fool,
Hurrah! Hurrah for the Swimming Pool.

We turn to the left, we turn to the right
Let's form a club of 'Honor Bright.' "

The boys ran toward the house with Little Brown Brother at their heels.

Grandpa Gray said,

"The night is come, the bright stars gleam,
Tomorrow we'll form a baseball team."

The boys all cried out with delight,
"We'll call ourselves 'The Honor Bright.'"

They went merrily to bed and Fairy Forget-Me-Not sang them all to sleep.

"At evening when the air is cool,
Let's go down to the Swimming Pool;
There the water-lilies float,
Each a little Fairy-Boat.

And tiny little fishes glide,
In the water side by side;
Come on, be happy as a rule,
Hurrah! Hurrah for the Swimming Pool!"

# Chapter Eight

# THE BASEBALL BOYS

## CHAPTER 8.

## THE BASEBALL BOYS

One evening Grandpa Gray said,

"To tell a story I believe it's time;
Shall I tell it in prose or in rhyme?"

The boys said, "Tell it any way you feel like, Grandpa, only let it be about baseball, please."

Grandpa Gray said,

"Well, now I begin,
There once was a pin
Who nothing would say
But, 'Pick me up all day.'

It said, 'A pin is useful quite,
Useful morning, noon and night.

It said to Fred on going to bed,
'Don't pick up anything else instead;
If the game of ball you'd win,
Remember the Pin! Remember the Pin.'

"The Honor Bright Boys challenged the Green Horns to a game of ball and

They went out to win,
But oh for a pin!"

Here Grandpa paused so long in the telling of his story that the boys were afraid he had fallen asleep and Willie Why said, "Why did the pin have anything to do with the ball game?"

Grandpa said,

"A word to the wise is quite enough;
Those Green Horn Boys are rather tough."

He said there was a bat in the attic that had been there for ninety-nine years and if they looked enough they might find some caps. So off the boys went in a hurry, up, up, up to the old garret, and sure enough, they found the bat and the red and white caps, and they felt like a full-fledged ball team already.

What fun they had practicing the game and never once did they think of Grandpa's advice about picking up pins, though

Pins were often on the floor,
On the staircase plenty more.

The great day came when the Honor Bright Boys were to play the Green Horn Boys, and they chose Fred for captain, so he wore a red shirt with a star on the front, and he wore a great smile, too.

Johnny-Jump-Up was pitcher, and Donald Dunce was catcher, and all went well until they came to a barb-wire fence.

Alas! They came to the barb-wire fence,
Just as the ball-game was to commence.

Donald Dunce caught his pants and tore a hole in the seat. Willie Why took a mirror out of his pocket and showed Donald Dunce just how he looked, and Willie Why took a mirror out of his pocket and showed Donald Dunce just how he looked, and Willie Why said, "Why are you the one always to get into trouble?"

Donald Dunce said,

"We want to win, but oh for a pin;
It's almost time for the game to begin."

Indeed, the Green Horn Boys were already on the ball grounds. What could Donald Dunce do?

STARS
BQ2-3 WANTED, A PIN
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Fairy Forget-Me-Not had whispered to Grandpa Gray that he ought to come out and enjoy the fun.

Iere he came, just when he was most needed, and as luck would have it, he found a pin in the lapel of his coat.

He pinned up the pants for Donald Dunce and it was such a glorious game that Donald Dunce did not care if he did get a black eye, and as the Honor Bright Boys won the game, they were happy as happy could be.

They said it was funny a game to win,
Just on account of a little pin.

For many days after that, the Honor Bright Boys practiced base-ball and tried to make Home Runs, and talked in a confident way about innings, and scores, and match games, and the famous nines of great colleges.

They studied base-ball reports and soon felt they were a match for any boys' team in the country.

Fred found an old paper in the garret that said the shirt he wore had belonged to one of "The Lone Star" players long ago; and there was an account of their beating "The Young Americas."

The boys challenged the Green Horn Players again with high hopes this time of winning even a better game.

Will you believe it? At the very start Donald Dunce fell and got a black eye, and he tore his suit on the barb-wire fence in so many places he was ashamed of it and kept wishing for a pin, instead of thinking of the game, and that day everything went wrong for the Honor Brights and the Green Horns won the game, seven to nothing.

The Honor Brights sat down on the floor beside Grandpa Gray that evening and he solemnly shook hands with every one of them. He said,

"We all have failures now and then
You take defeat like gentlemen;
I'm glad to know you, I declare;
The Honor Brights all play fair."

Suddenly, without a word of warning, Fred jumped up and began to look on the floor. Johnny Jump-Up and Donald Dunce did the same and Willie Why said,

"Why didn't we think of it before,
To buy a paper of pins at the store?
We'll carry a paper of pins, you know.
For accidents will happen so."

Grandma said as she looked kindly over her spectacles,

"There is a pin cushion on the shelf;
You may each go in and help yourself."

The boys put pins in their coat collars and in their belts and said,

"Ha! Ha! the next game we will win;
Hurrah for a pin, hurrah for a pin!"

Did the Honor Brights play the Green Horns again? Well, I guess they did and it was an exciting game this time. Everything went right.

Johnny-Jump-Up pitched a wonderful game and struck out every Green Horn who came to bat. Donald Dunce did good work catching the ball and all the Honor Brights made good plays.

With many cheers the game continued and when Donald Dunce came up to bat, he actually made a home run.

They played no tricks, but fair and right
Was the game played by the Honor
Brights.

They won a glorious victory and the crowd of neighbors who came to see the game shouted themselves hoarse.

Said Willie Why, "Who speaks of luck?
Some games are really won by pluck."

The Green Horn Boys stood defeat well, too, even though they were beaten twice out of three times. They all came in a crowd to see the Honor Brights and to roast apples on the last evening of their stay in the country.

Suddenly one of the Green Horn Boys took something out of his pocket and passed it from one to another.

They all laughed, for it was a picture of the Honor Brights before their first game, and under the picture was written,

"Don't make fun of the teams that win
But at this moment 'Wanted a Pin.' "

The Honor Brights were very merry and decided they were going to hike home the next day. They had grown so strong and sturdy with out-door exercise, they said a walk of eight miles would only be fun.

Said the boys, " 'Tis jolly to work and play;
We may have adventures on the way;
But, whatever plight you find us in,
We never will say 'Wanted, a pin.' "

# Chapter Nine

# FRED'S FISHING DAY

## CHAPTER 9.

## FRED'S FISHING DAY

The road is even, the road is long,
Let's travel over the road with song.

The Honor Bright Boys left the farm, saying, "Good-bye, Grandma and Grandpa Gray."

Grandma and Grandpa said,

"Good-bye, be sure to do what's right,
Good-bye, Boys of the Honor Bright."

All went well until they came to a cross-road. Then Donald Dunce and Johnny-Jump-Up said the shortest way would be to turn to the left, and Willie Why said, "Why do we separate? Why don't we all travel together?"

They were looking for an adventure and then a surprising thing happened.

A gipsy caravan overtook them.

Where it had come from they couldn't tell, but a gipsy driver said,

"We'll be in Platteville in an hour or so;
Would you like a lift, or where do you go?"

The boys were delighted to climb up into the gipsy wagon, of course, and sit beside a real gipsy Fortune-Teller.

It was almost as thrilling as getting breakfast for a clown.

Donald Dunce said in a loud whisper,

"We have a few dimes, but not very many;
Would she tell a fortune for a penny?"

The gipsy Fortune-Teller laughed until her ear-rings jingled and said,

"With silver you must cross your hand,
If a fortune you'd understand."

Of course, the boys were all wild to have their fortunes told at once, and, of course, they gave the gipsy Fortune-Teller all the dimes and quarters they had in their pockets.

She told Fred that he would soon have a fight over a fair lady, and she told Donald Dunce and Willie Why they would soon act an important part in a play.

She said, with a twinkle in her eyes,

"If three of you boys make a gipsy wish,
You'll have some good luck catching fish."

The boys begged her to tell more, but she began to sing a gipsy song of the road. She sang,

"Up and down the winding road,
Gipsy feet have often trod;
But, Oh! what fun and merriment
We have when we dance about our tent!"

Willie Why said, "Will our fortunes really come true? Will we have good luck if we go fishing tomorrow?"

The gipsy Fortune-Teller smiled and nodded and said,

"The wind must be right to get a bite,
And you must be quick of sight;
And you must drop your line just right,
If you want to get a bite."

"Why must we keep quiet?" asked Willie Why.

The gipsy Fortune-Teller said,

"You ask questions morning, noon and night;
Keep quiet or the fish won't bite."

"But why won't they bite unless we keep quiet?" insisted Willie Why.

The gipsy Fortune-Teller said,

"You have two ears, why, do you suppose
Two bright eyes and only one mouth
and nose?"

Which really did not answer his question after all.

The gipsies let the boys out when they got into Platteville and they went on the winding road by the sheep farm.

The boys were so happy to get home, they tossed their caps in the air and shouted,

"Hurrah! Hurrah! Home looks the same;
Hurrah! Hurrah! We went and came."

Their friends crowded round them and only one disappointing thing happened.

Flora did not seem as excited to see Fred as usual, for she had business of her own to attend to, and she would not even promise to go fishing with the boys to-morrow.

Johnny-Jump-Up said not to wait for him, if he overslept, but Fred and Donald Dunce got their fishing lines in order. Willie Why said, "Why don't you wait 'till tomorrow to get your bait?"

Early next day, Donald Dunce came running along barefooted, shouting,

"I will be on time for once,
Though my name is Donald
Dunce."

He had his fishing pole and bucket of bait.

They did not start at six o'clock, nor at seven o'clock, nor even at eight, and Willie Why said, "Why don't we start?"

They were delayed, now since you ask it,
Because they were looking for a basket.

By and by a basket was found for the fish and the boys started off merrily, singing,

"We are late, we don't care a mite;
Wanted a bite, wanted a bite!"

Fred said, "We must bait our hooks and climb up on the fence, and sit very still so the fish will not be scared away, and the Fortune-Teller said we would have good luck, so we hope soon to go home with a big basket full of fish."

By and by Donald Dunce grew sleepy and

His fishing pail crept down, down;
He was off and away to Sleepy-Town.

Willie Why rubbed his eyes and

He said, "Why do we wait?" and began to frown;
He was off and away to Sleepy-Town.

Fred felt a bite and to his amazement drew up a cute little fairy, who said,

"I will fill your basket in a minute;
How many fish do you want in it?"

My! The basket was filled as if by magic, and the fairy said,

"I am a Little Old Man of the Sea;
You may now make wishes three."

Fred thought a long time what to wish for; then he said, "I wish Flora was here this very minute."

He felt two hands cover his eyes and a merry voice say

805-3 WANTED, A BITE
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"You can guess, if you are wise,
Whose hands cover up your eyes."

Fred cried, "It is my own dear Flora. My! How I wish I had a cookie. I am so hungry."

Flora put a cookie right into his mouth, for she had a basket of them on her arm.

Then, forgetting the Fairy, Fred said, "I wish every one of us had a bite this minute."

Each of the children felt their lines pull and Donald Dunce and Willie Why woke up and Fred declared he had not been dreaming at all, but the Fairy was nowhere to be seen.

From that time on they caught fish and, when the day was over, had a basket full of fish and each boy went proudly into town with a string of fish down his back.

They whistled and sang to the tune of "Lightly Row,"

"Fishing's fun, fishing's fun,
Now that the day's work is done;
Fishing's fun, fishing's fun,
Fun in rain or sun.

Fish away and do not sleep,
Even though you quiet keep;
Fishing's fun, fishing's fun,
Fun for everyone."

Fred told about the Fairy and said, "I wonder if it could have been Fairy Forget-Me-Not, for Fairies can change their shape and size as often as they please."

Flora would not tell whether she had come to the fishing pond with cookies or not, for she was very busy planning some fine charades.

They all enjoyed fish for supper and that evening there came a "rap-a-tap" at

the door. There stood the gipsy Fortune-Teller saying,

"Ha! Ha! young man, did you get your wish?
Ha! Ha! young man, I smell fresh fish."

Fred had to invite the gipsy in and give her a plate of fish, of course.

Mother said, after the gipsy had gone, it was not safe to ride with strangers and not safe to talk to gipsies or invite them into the house.

Flora and Fred said they would ask Fairy Forget-Me-Not to help them remember all that mother said.

Mother taught them how to play a new game called "Fisherman." They invited in the neighbors' children and stood in a ring. They chose one child to stand in-

side the ring, singing to the tune of "Lightly Row,"

"Make a wish, make a wish,
Who will help me catch my fish?
Make a wish, make a wish,
Help me fill my dish;
Let's be merry, every one,
Fishing is such jolly fun.
Make a wish, make a wish,
Help me catch my fish."

Any child standing in a circle called out, "I think of a fish beginning with the letter 'S.'" The fisherman then said,

"If I have my wish,
You will name the fish."

He pointed to any child, who thought of "Sole" or "Salmon" or of any fish whose name began with the letter "S," or, if he could not think of a fish whose name

began with the letter, he went out of the game.

You can play the game of "Fisherman," if you like, but before you begin,

To the dictionary go
And study fish an hour or so;
Perch and trout and salmon, mind,
Mackerel, bass or blue-fish find;
Study fish and don't forget
To name them like the alphabet;
Find all the names of fish you can,
And play the game of "Fisher-
man."

# Chapter Ten

# IN MERRY MAY TIME

## CHAPTER 10.

## IN MERRY MAY TIME

Once upon a time, Fairy Forget-Me-Not said to Flora and Fred,

"The first of May, the first of May,
Tomorrow will be our Moving Day."

Flora said, "I don't have to have a Fairy remind me that I have to leave all my friends," and Fred said, "We don't have to have a Fairy remind us we are going to move into a new neighborhood and go to a new school."

Fairy Forget-Me-Not often whispered to them to cheer them up and said,

"Have courage now, whistle and sing;
Come, make the best of everything."

Donald Dunce came to say "Good-bye," and said,

"I really was very stupid once,
No wonder they nick-named me
'Dunce.'"

Said Donald Dunce, "I've learned
today
It is just as easy to work as play."

The Calico Girl came running along and Willie Why said, "Why do you have to move? We have lived in the same house for five years."

The children called "Good-bye, good-bye," and they were soon off and away for their new home.

Next day they started for the new school.

Said the faithful Family Clock,
"The new school is around the block."

Fred wore his new blue trousers and his new blue neck-tie and Flora wore her new pink dress and sun-bonnet.

Fred said, "When I feel down-hearted, I carry my bag of marbles in my pocket."

Flora said, "I just sing little songs that I make up myself."

They reached the new school and stood in the school-room door.

They stood a minute at the door;
They had not seen the teacher before.

They really wondered what to do,
For every face they saw was new.

Little "Button-Off," and "Shorty," and "Tall"
Made remarks about them all;
They said slyly, "Here comes Boy Blue;
Here comes his sweetheart and she's scared too."

Were they scared? I guess they were. At that minute they would have done anything in the world to have been back in their own seats in their own school, but they only had one dreadful minute, for this was a delightful school.

The teacher, Miss Manners, came and shook hands with them and the Thank-You Girl helped them find a hook for their wraps, and Susan Smile showed them their seats, and Isabel If-You-Please showed them where to find their lessons, and they began to feel quite at home when Walter Why began to ask questions, for he made them think of Willie Why at home.

They played politeness games and everything went well until they met Bully Ben from another room on the Playground. He called Fred names and said he was too little to fight. It was all Flora

could do to persuade him not to have a fight then and there, and after they got back in school Fred remembered the Fortune-Teller said he would have a fight over a Fair Lady. He said to himself, "I will fight Bully Ben if I happen to meet him on the way home, I know."

Right at this minute, sad to relate,
The Ten O'Clock Scholar came in late.

The children sang a new song to the tune of "Lightly Row,"

Merry May, Merry May,
Summer Sweet is on her way;
Merry May, Merry May,
Let us all be gay.

Merry May comes in with flowers,
Merry May brings springtime showers;
"Merry May, Merry May,
Summer's on her way."

They learned a pretty story. They read that the month of May was named for the Roman Goddess, Maia. She had six sisters and Mercury, the swiftest runner in the world, was her son. He had wings upon his feet, so he could run swiftly, and wings upon his wand. When Mercury waved his wand, there was always peace.

The teacher said, "If you want to see the Goddess Maia, you may meet her tonight."

Walter Why said, "Why didn't you tell us before? Where can we meet her? Why don't we call her Goddess May?"

Fred said, "I know where to look for the Goddess Maia."

Flora said, "We can see her in the sky tonight, in a group of stars called 'The Pleiades.' "

Next day the teacher gave them a surprise. She said, when it came time for their Language Lesson,

"Come, close your eyes, there'll be a surprise
For every boy and girl here who tries."

The children all closed their eyes and when the teacher tapped the bell they looked and saw a Lollipop Lady on every desk.

The teacher said,

"Every little child had better;
Learn to write a pleasant letter;
So, write a letter and do not stop
'Till you've written Lady Lollipop."

The children all thought it fun to write to the Lollipop Ladies and Fred and Flora knew so much about them they wrote the best letters, of course.

Flora wrote:

Belmont, Wis.
May 2nd, 1923.

"Dear Lady Lollipop:

Fred and I have been wondering where you went after you left the old Toy Shop.

We wonder what boy and girl bought you for a penny.

We have come to a new school, but we think we will like it very much. Please write to

Your loving friend,
Flora Pretend."

The next day the children were happy as could be, for they had another surprise. When they came to school, each child saw a tiny envelope on his or her desk.

808-3—WANTED, A PACIFIER
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Each child had a letter from a Lollipop Lady. The letters had good advice in them too.

Fred's letter was all in verse. It read,

"Be on time, with smiling face,
On Monday every child in place;
On Tuesday, when you go to school,
Be on time and keep each rule.

On Wednesday try to read and spell:
Do your lessons very well;
On Thursday every teacher mind;
On the Playground do be kind.

On Friday a good report discover,
For the school week is well over."

Fred learned to spell every day of the week, except Saturday and Sunday, and Flora said, "I will make a rhyme about those days myself," but just as she was thinking about it, Bully Ben came and

# Chapter Eleven

# THE ROLLER SKATING RACE

## CHAPTER 11

## THE ROLLER SKATING RACE

One merry winter day, Flora looked about to see Fred, but he had gone off to play with the boys and she felt a little lonesome.

She said,

"Not a minute I will wait;
I will borrow his roller skates."

She buckled on the skates and tried to stand on them.

Down she went, as you'd suppose,
And scratched her face and bruised
her nose.

She got up and fell again and went crying into the house. She said.

"I have one trouble and another,
How I miss my great big brother."

Fred came in just then and said, "Hurrah! Hurrah! I am made captain of the football team."

He saw Flora sitting in a heap on the floor and said,

"My goodness, sure as fate,
Did you try to roller-skate?"

He said he would hold her up and teach her how to skate. He said,

"Mother, tell us, may we go
On the sidewalk an hour or so?"

Mother said,

"Ask your coats, so cozy and warm,
If they will keep you from all harm."

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803-3 WANTED, A BRAKE
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The children imagined the coats said,

"Ask your caps in winter, too,
If roller-skating's the thing to do."

The caps seemed to whisper,

"Mufflers for children and also mittens,
Don't forget the 'Three Little Kittens.' "

The children laughed merrily and said, "We don't lose our mittens like the Three Little Kittens did long ago, for they are on a string we wear round our necks."

Out they went and

The snow-shovel began to talk;
The snow-shovel said, "Clean the walk,
Clean the walk, for skating's fun;
Finish it when you've begun."

Flora and Fred took turns at shoveling off the walk and soon they had a place where they could skate.

Fred held Flora up and said, "Don't be afraid. You can stand up if you say you can."

Flora said,

"Oh, dear! Oh dear!
I'll fall, I fear."

I don't know how they would have gotten along if Fairy Forget-Me-Not had not whispered to Flora,

"Have courage now for a minute or so,
Off and away skating you'll go."

Suddenly, to Fred's surprise, she got her balance and went skating alone down the street. The only trouble was, she couldn't stop, now she had gotten started.

"Oh dear!" she cried, "What a mistake,
Wanted a brake, wanted a brake!"

Fred ran and held her and said, "You are doing finely."

After that, Flora begged for his skates every day.

Now, the days went on a-pace,
There was to be a skating race;
There was only one pair of skates, you know,
But into the race each wanted to go.

No one had skates to loan, 'twas funny,
And good skates cost a lot of money;
They talked about it on going to bed,
"What shall we do?" said Flora and Fred.

One day Fred went out into the woods. There was snow everywhere. He heard a wee, wee voice sing over and over,

"A rat-a-tat-tat, a-rat-a-tat-too,
I'm making skates and making a shoe;

I'll make them both to fit your feet,
If you will save me candy sweet."

Fred was sure it was the Fairy Shoemaker, though he could see no one.

He felt in his coat pocket and drew out a bag of candy and placed it beside the stone that the voice seemed to come from.

He waited a long time. Then the stone rolled over and out came a wee, wee man with a wee tape measure and began to measure the foot print Fred had made in the snow.

He sang,

"Rat-a-tat-tat, a rat-a-tat-too,
I'm making skates for me and you;
Now keep your head in any case,
Steady and slow will win the race."

Fred said, "Oh you cunning fellow! Are you really making skates for me?

Will you come out and skate with me, too?"

The wee, wee man sang,

"Ho! Ho! it's no fun living alone;
Perhaps you'll lend me your ice-cream cone."

So it went on for days and days, and days, and Fred shared many good things with the Fairy Shoemaker.

One evening, when he got to the stone, there was a wonderful pair of skates, just his size. He put them on.

They fitted and it seemed too good to be true. The wee, wee man came out and said with a friendly manner,

"You're a friend of mine,
The ice is fine,
I'll teach you tricks seven or nine."

Together they ran to the ice pond and skated merrily up and down and when the wee, wee man was about to win the race Fred grew so angry he shouted, "You are such a wee, wee man, I could crush you with my thumb and finger. You shall not win the race."

The Fairy Shoemaker was so surprised he climbed a tree and sat upon the branches, winking and blinking his eyes.

"He did not mean to be angry on the
spot,"
Said little Fairy Forget-Me-Not.

Fred looked at his feet. The skates had turned into a pair of rubbers three sizes too big and in a minute the wee, wee man had vanished.

Fairy Forget-Me-Not said,

"The Fairy Shoemaker says today
That anger frightened him away."

"Oh, Oh, Oh," cried Fred, "will he never come back?"

Now, wasn't it fine that one day Flora had heard the wee, wee man sing,

"Save a penny, save a dime;
You can spend another time."

Now, wasn't it lucky she had listened to his advice and had saved $3.50, so when Fred told his adventures, she said,

"Oh, Fred dear, never mind;
The Fairy Shoemaker is kind."

"Do you think he will ever make me another pair of skates?" asked Fred.

Every day the great Roller Skating Race grew nearer and nearer.

Fred said, "We both use this pair of skates so much I wonder if the buckles will hold me up when the race begins."

The very day of the race Flora woke early and said,

"Fred, you'd better
Look for a letter,
Right here in bed,
Under your head."

Fred looked under his pillow and drew out a letter which said, "You are kind to your sister and even though you forget and get angry once in a while, you shall have the best skates that money can buy.

Then, he for a penny, and ho for a dime,
Enter the race and have a good time."

Fred was delighted, you may be sure, for under his bed were a brand new pair of skates.

The children could hardly wait for the race to begin. They had a wonderful time and once, quite by accident, it looked as though a girl was going to win, and

just as Fred began to get angry, Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered,

"Be careful what you think or say,
For anger frightens fairies away."

He went on steady and slow and reached the goal ahead of the rest.

Fred won the race and had a little gold star pinned on his coat.

He often wondered where the skates came from, but no one would tell him.

He guessed right, I am sure, for he kissed Flora on both cheeks and said,

"I'll save my pennies and then I'll try
Something nice for you to buy."

A wee, wee voice called,

"A rat-a-tat-tat, a rat-a-tat-too,
That's fine, I quite agree with you;

Flora and Fred always love each other,
Dear little, queer little sister and brother."

# Chapter Twelve

# THE CIRCUS PLAY

## CHAPTER 12.

## THE CIRCUS PLAY

Flora and Fred said one day to Mother,

"We want to give a Circus Play,
And invite friends from far away;
So, may we send without delay
Invitations to our Circus Play?"

Mother said "Yes," so that is the reason the Calico Girl was happy for a whole week, and Willie Why asked more questions than ever, and Bennie Behind-Hand really tried to hurry a little and Donald Dunce worked harder than usual.

Their little friends from far away
Had invited them for a Circus Play.

Flora and Fred trained Little Button-Off, and Shorty, and Tall, and Susan

Smile, and Isabel If-You-Please, and Bully Ben was to speak a piece and he went about for days saying "Prologue" for was the name of his piece which was to introduce the Play.

It was fun for days and days to drape screens for scenery and get rugs in order. Once Fred stopped and said, "What if our old friend, the Comical Circus Clown, should drop in."

Flora said, "What if he should!"

The evening for the Play arrived at last and all the children came. Bully Ben stepped out on the platform and gave his "Prologue."

"Little friends, we are gathered here,
We have come from far and near;
Soon the Circus will appear,
Quite proper at this time of year.

Some mistakes may happen, too,
Please excuse them if they do;
At acting plays we're somewhat new,
But we will do our best for you."

Then the Big Parade began.

Onto the stage and round and round went the children on all fours, as bears, and elephants, and camels with humps that would not stay in place, and the performing elephant did wonderful tricks for the clown.

Some very exciting midgets went through a dumb-bell drill, and there was an exciting race between two tiny boys on kiddy cars.

Small boys rode on hobby horses, and a Fortune-Teller told real fortunes with cards.

Then came the tableaux.

One was called "The Flower of the Family and the Belle of Belmont."

Every one guessed which pretty girl it might be and a shout went up to see, as the curtain rose, a sack of flour and the old School Bell.

They were just getting ready for a snow scene and had scattered some cotton on the floor to look like real snow, when Johnny-Jump-Up, who had been visiting the children, walked in his sleep and came in with Wee Willie Winkie in his arms. He sat down and Brother Bow-Wow came at their heels.

As quick as a flash, Fred put up a sign "Wanted a Home." Then they let the curtain down and woke Johnny-Jump-Up, but he could never believe he had been in the play at all.

80D-3—WANTED, A HOME
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The Snow-Fairies gave a fancy dance, and just as it was over, who should peep in the window from behind but the Comical Circus Clown.

He had red and blue stripes painted on his face and he had on his clown suit and cap, of course.

The little audience and actors all clapped their hands and cried, "A real live Clown! Hurrah! Hurrah for the Clown!"

He jumped in the window and said,

"I discover your Play is over;
Of playing tricks I am a lover."

He switched off the lights, and in a second switched them on again, and said,

"It was dark like a London fog;
Who will speak the epilogue?"

He explained that every good Play should have a piece spoken at the end as well as the beginning. As no one knew how to finish the Play, he said, "Let us sing a Circus Song." So he taught them a song to the tune of "My Bonnie" from a College Song Book he had tucked under his arm, and he played the tune on a mouth organ.

They sang,

"My money makes such a commotion,
My money's a trouble to me,
"My money makes such a commotion,
Who'll bring back my money to me?

Chorus

Bring back, bring back,
Bring back my money to me, to me,
Bring back, bring back,
Oh bring back my money to me."

Then the most surprising thing happened.

The Clown touched his cap and out came shining pennies. He capered about the stage and everything he touched had a penny in it, and soon he was sending a shower of pennies all over the stage.

The children cried "Hurrah! Hurrah!" and declared they never had such fun before.

Now, will you believe it? Johnny-Jump-Up fell asleep and walked in his sleep again with Wee Willie Winkie in his arms, and Brother Bow-Wow came looking so sorrowful that the Comical Circus Clown whisked out a camera and took their pictures and said,

"I am a Clown, I go and come,
'Tis sad, indeed, to want to roam,
We should be kind to all who roam,
'Wanted a home, wanted a home!' "

Fred and Flora ran up to him and said, "Oh Comical Circus Clown, will you stay with us always? We will let you sleep in one of our beds and share breakfast with you."

The Comical Circus Clown began to measure his legs and he measured Fred's legs and said,

"I want to thank you, that is all,
But I could not sleep in a bed so
small."

The Comical Circus Clown taught the children how to take paper flowers out of their hats, and how to keep three balls going in the air at once, and how to balance a hoop on the nose.

Then with a whisk and a bound, the Comical Circus Clown jumped out the window and the Circus Play was over.

Late that night, Flora woke Fred and said, "We forgot to ask the Comical Circus Clown how he happened to come in just at the right moment when we were giving a Circus Play."

At this minute, Fairy Forget-Me-Not whispered,

"Is Johnny-Jump-Up still in the house?
In his room it's as still as a mouse."

"Dear me, isn't he in bed?" asked Fred, and Flora ran to find he had walked downstairs again in his sleep.

She said, "I'll wake him on the spot;
Thank you, Fairy Forget-Me-Not."

For many days after, the children all played Clown tricks and all summer they hoped that a circus would come to town.

In August a circus did come and who should help sell tickets but the Comical Circus Clown.

A Comical Circus Clown who said,

"Hurrah! Hurrah!" to Flora and Fred.
Flora and Fred said, "Every day
We have to practice our Circus Play;
We hear you rap-a-tap on the big drum,
But forgot to ask just why you come."

The Comical Circus Clown went onto the band stand and turned a somerset, so I wonder if Flora and Fred ever did find out why he came twice to visit them.

The Comical Circus Clown did not forget the children but shouted,

"I'm a Circus Clown in Polka Dot,
Ask questions of Fairy Forget-Me-Not;
I'm a smiling Clown, in Polka-Dot-Gown,
I've lost my frown on the way to town."

Flora and Fred waved their hands and shouted,

"Hurrah! Hurrah, he is coming down;
Hurrah! for the Comical Circus Clown."

He did come down, and to the surprise of the crowd, tucked Fred under one arm and Flora under the other and gave them two of the very best seats in the tent.

And every time he passed up or down,
They cried, "Hurrah for the Polka-Dot Clown!"

To which he replied,

"Polka-Dots from top to toe,
Into the ring the Clown will go;
Thank you for every word you said,
Hurrah! Hurrah! for Flora and Fred;

Hurrah! Hurrah! for the circus
tent,
Hurrah! for hours of merriment;
Excuse me for standing up-side-
down,
Polka-Dot, Comical Circus Clown."

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